

slide presentation on pagan rites:
"After class tonight, in your van,
but only if you have a you-know-what."

was the football squad's defensive team
invited to an impromptu first victory bash
after six losses into the new season?

was a diseased victim trying to deliver
a message, make contact, so to speak?

was this merely the mundane, imagineless
result of frat fellows on a scavenger search?

let us hope for some romance here.

perhaps our Hero inflated a few of the leftovers
to buoy him on his return across the Hellespont
after leaving lovely Leander thoroughly sated.

THE CAT ON KILIMANJARO

in Florence we lived in an apartment 120 steps high.
it was August so all portals stayed open.
from our rooftop sundeck we overlooked the entire city.
mosquitoes thrived in the rarefied atmosphere;
local birds perched neighborly on the sills.

it's nice to be that high anywhere,
but particularly in Italy.

one day we saw a cat roaming the rooftops:
no one knows what il gato was seeking at that altitude.

— Charles Stetler

Long Beach CA

SPILLING

she sits by the yellow roses
she sits by the yellow bananas
she sits leaning against the sunlit wall
her hair is pale yellow
it shines with electricity
her bracelet makes bright flashings
as she talks and gestures
her full cup with the spoon in it